



Cheam Alumni **NEWSLETTER**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE CSA AND THE CHEAM FOUNDATION | 2021



William Phelps



Will Phelps is an exceptional and inspiring leader who has developed a wealth of experience over his 26-year career in teaching and education.

After being educated at the Dragon School and Clifton College, Will gained an Honours degree in Theology at King's College, London, in 1993, before completing his PGCE at Westminster College, Oxford, and an MA in Education Leadership at New York University. His first teaching post was as a Religious Studies teacher at Aldenham School, where he taught for two years. He then developed his leadership qualities at Abingdon School over a period of 12 years, teaching Theology and being appointed successively as Senior Housemaster and Head of Boarding.

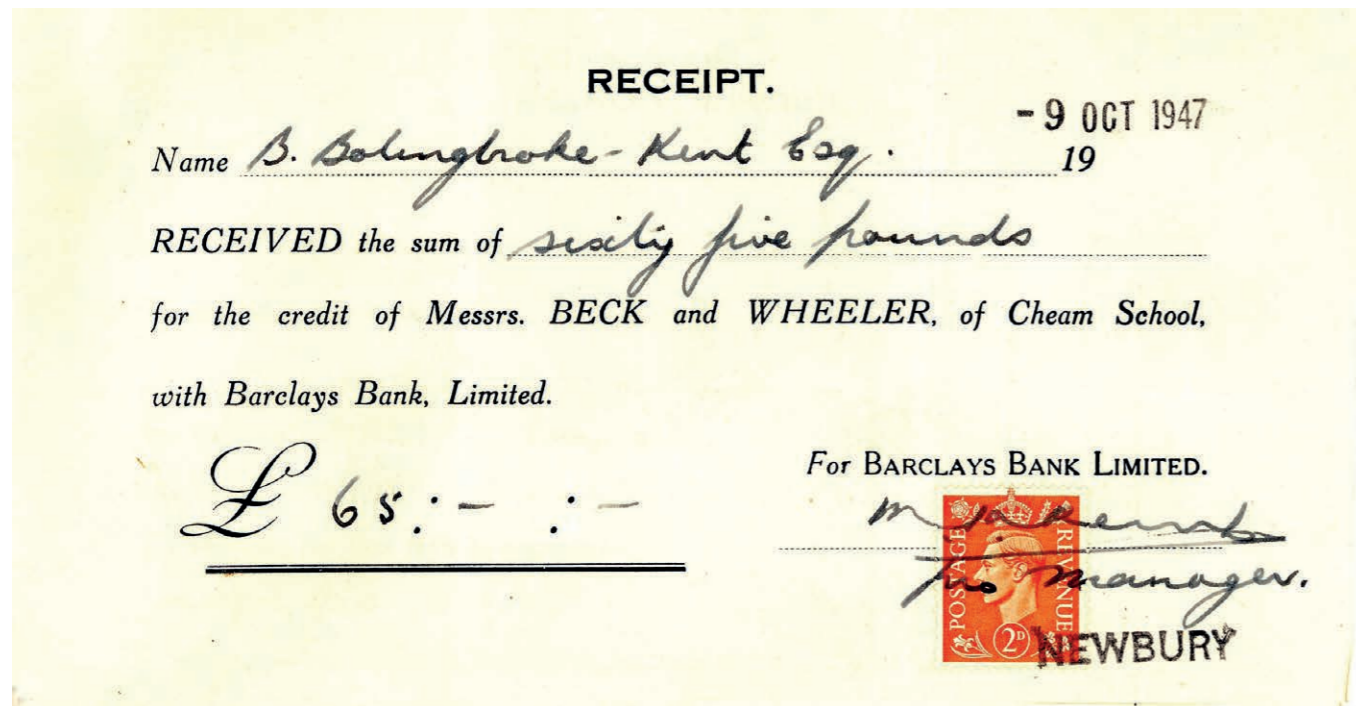
In 2010 Will was appointed to his first headship at The British International School of New York in Manhattan. It was here that he oversaw the implementation of a new academic curriculum, doubled pupil numbers and established strong relationships with senior schools in the UK. After five years he was keen for the next challenge and in 2015

was delighted to move back to the UK to be appointed as Headmaster of The Beacon School in Amersham.

Over the following six years, in charge of the largest boys' prep school in the country, Will oversaw integral development within the school, creating a strategic 10-year vision, managing an ambitious £5,000,000 building programme, expanding and developing critical senior school relationships, relaunching a Nursery, and steering the school and The Beacon community through the many challenges associated with the pandemic with flexibility, strong leadership and innovation. He is particularly proud of developing The Beacon's pastoral ethos to provide a happy, purposeful and kind environment for all its boys and staff.

In April 2021 Will Phelps was appointed as the next Headmaster of Cheam and is thrilled to be taking the helm of such a unique and flourishing prep school in April 2022.

THE SCHOOL BILL



Noel Bolingbroke-Kent (47-53) sent us a copy of the receipt for his first term's fees at Cheam in 1947. "My total fees for my six years at Cheam were £1,505. I have all the bills. This was very reasonable as the list price of an R Type Bentley in 1953 was £4,000."

From Cheam to Westminster: an educational career

I had an unconventional upbringing, attending seven schools before the age of 12 and, partly because of a dysfunctional family, I was taken in by the Shaftesbury Homes and lived on board the Training Ship Arethusa for two years. The plan was that I would join the Royal Navy at 16, but the Arethusa closed overnight, and an unknown benefactor changed my life by paying for me to go to Pangbourne College. This was a liberal and liberating moment for me, and somehow I was made Chief Cadet Captain of College (Head of School) and ended up winning a place at Cambridge to study History.

Peter Points, my inspirational Headmaster, advised me to take a gap year, and I remember the conversation well when he mentioned that I would love working in a prep school for the year. For a host of complex reasons I started at Elstree and then had two wonderful terms at Cheam (January to July 1979). They were memorable times; the staff were so accommodating and such fun to work with, and the boys weren't too bad either! I loved it so much that Michael Wheeler invited me back every summer after the Cambridge year finished to help out for the last month of the Summer Term. And then, in an inspired move in my final year, Michael came to Cambridge, took me out to lunch and offered me a full-time job, and so in the summer of 1982 we (I married Alison just before I started at Cheam) moved to Cheam and lived in Home Farm Cottage. Now that was an experience (one-brick-thick walls with no insulation was so character-forming!), but these were in many ways the two happiest years of my teaching career. I say that because I learnt how to teach (I taught History and rather worryingly, looking back, Maths!). I learnt so much History that I often said I learnt more History in my two years at Cheam than I did in three years at Cambridge. Being involved with the athletics, the rugby and the chess and interacting on a daily basis with such interesting pupils was a real eye-opener. In recent years it has been great to re-connect with Joel Cadbury in particular. The staff, too, were terrific, and in 38 years of teaching I can honestly say that it was the best Common Room experience I encountered. It is invidious to single out anyone, but to work alongside people like Roger Priestley, Charles Price,

Roy Somerset, Rosemary Seward, Richard Moore, Robert Hughes and Brian Holden was a real education for me. To all the staff I owe a huge debt, as well as to everyone in the Cheam family, because I know that without these formative years I would not have had the career I have had.

In the summer of 1984 we moved to Radley College, where I was Head of History and Tutor (Housemaster) of C Social, and it was brilliant to encounter so many ex-Cheam boys in these years. I should apologise to Adam Thompson and Christian Bunyan, whom I taught History throughout this time! The art of teaching that I had learnt at Cheam helped me hugely, and my passion for History meant that even when I became a headmaster I continued to teach an 'A' Level set.

We left Radley in the summer of 1996 as I became Headmaster of Solihull School in September of that year. We moved to Rugby in 2001, and I finally ended up in London as Headmaster of Westminster from 2014 until the summer of 2020. Finishing my school career virtually, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, was quite an experience.

Throughout my career, particularly my 24 years as a headmaster, and because of my own background, I am passionate about widening access. I set up the Arnold Foundation for Rugby School in 2003, which provides a boarding education at Rugby for disadvantaged children, and I was instrumental in setting up the SpringBoard Bursary Foundation (now the Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation), a new national charity closely modelled on

the Arnold Foundation. I was a trustee of IntoUniversity from 2007 to 2020, and my love of the 19th century led to my becoming a trustee of the Gladstone Library, the only prime-ministerial library (interestingly, a library with rooms) in this country and well worth visiting if you have never been. At Westminster I was closely involved with Harris Westminster Sixth Form, an academically-selective free school which aspires to transform the education of the most able but disadvantaged London students.

Now I am working on some interesting projects, including chairing a soon-to-be-launched online education platform. Working remotely has been interesting, but I am surrounded by my books and pictures and, as I write this, I am looking at the Cheam print and the Edward Peel History of Cheam School. They serve as the most wonderful reminders of my association with Cheam, which has a special place in my heart and also in Alison's, and I am proud to have walked in the footsteps of so many distinguished people and to have been a very small part of its illustrious history. Long may Cheam School flourish, and I send my very best wishes to all the Cheam family, both past and present.

Patrick Derham (82-84)



Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, 1921-2021



When Prince Philip died on 9th April 2021, our thoughts were of course primarily with the Queen and her family, who felt the sense of loss greatest. I also wanted to mourn the end of Cheam's association with Prince Philip that goes back so many years. He was a pupil at Cheam from 1930 to 1933 when the school was still situated at Cheam in Surrey. He very much enjoyed his time there, excelling at sport in particular. His fondness for and interest in Cheam are reflected in the fact that he accepted the office of President of the Cheam School Association when it was founded in 1952. This was a position he held until 1973, when he became the Patron of the CSA, a role in which he remained for the rest of his life. I am sure his fondness for Cheam was a crucial factor in the decision to send Prince Charles there in 1957. I have personal memories of that time as my uncle was Peter Beck, the then joint-Headmaster of Cheam, and I joined the school a couple of years later. I have a clear recollection of my uncle greeting Prince Philip on the steps at the front of the school and engaging in an animated conversation. It would also have been an opportunity for Prince Philip to see Prince Charles – in those days we had no weekends out, let alone exeats or half-terms! In later years, my uncle told me that Prince Philip had always shown a huge interest in the education of children at Cheam and how to get the best out of them to give them a good start in life. That is obviously borne out by the hugely successful Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme he subsequently established.

As mentioned above, Prince Philip always maintained his association with Cheam. He wrote several forewords for books, magazines and cricket brochures produced by the school, and during a visit in 1996 he laid the foundation stone for the new Science laboratories that were being built at the

time. In addition, Cheam was not forgotten in the guest lists of Buckingham Palace garden parties, and many teachers enjoyed meeting him informally on such occasions. I remember attending a CSA event at St James' Palace kindly hosted by Prince Philip in 2003, when he exuded huge charm with a twinkle in his eye. His last visit to Cheam was in 2013, when he came to open The Duke of Edinburgh Building. I think Prince Philip was delighted to have had such an important project for Cheam named after him. Many of you will remember that day, and I have two particular recollections. I was standing near him when he drew back the curtain to unveil the plaque at the entrance to the building, and he turned and said, "You are very lucky to be watching at work the most experienced rope-puller in the world!" This self-deprecating humour shone through in the tributes following his death. Secondly, the parents and governors attending the event were asked to organise themselves into groups of eight in the main dining room, with each group having a fixed period with Prince Philip so that he could leave the room at a precise time. It wasn't difficult to know where Prince Philip had reached in the dining room as there was a hubbub of smiles and laughter wherever he went. He had to leave on time as he had a busy schedule and another event to go to, and it reminded us that there were countless other organisations to which he gave so much time, advice and support.

Given his duties as consort to the Queen and his wide range of interests in so many walks of life, Cheam was incredibly privileged to have had the benefit of such a long and meaningful association with Prince Philip, and he will be sorely missed.

**Richard Marsh (60-65,
Chairman of the Governors 17-)**



Top left: 1996. Miles Hunt-Davies (Prince Philip's Secretary), Peter Herbert (Chairman of the Governors), Chris Evers, Prince Philip, Martin Porter, Penny Evers and Sarah Urquhart

Top right: 1996. Prince Philip, Henry Radice (30-35) and Jimmy Taylor (30-35)

Left: 1996. Jake Meyer, Prince Philip, Freddie Findlay, John Allott, George Hawley, Simon Allott and Vora Tejapaibul

Bottom row: 2013. Pictures taken in the Penhale Room and the Library

More Prince Philip memories



Noel Bolingbroke-Kent

Noel BOLINGBROKE-KENT (47-53) wrote as follows: A big service to commemorate the life of Prince Philip was held on April 16th at Burnham Thorpe Church, Norfolk, where Nelson's father was rector. As I was at Cheam, I wrote and read the address at the service about Prince Philip's time at Cheam as it contained information that is not generally known. My address was well received and was published in the May Burnham Newsletter the following week. I obtained most of the information from *Cheam School from 1645* by Edward Peel. I ramped it up a bit to make it more interesting. Part of my address went as follows: "Prince Philip of Greece was at Cheam from 1930 to 1933. He did not stay to reach the top, as he left at the age of just 12, but he was already showing much promise all round. He had won a prize for Mathematics in his first year and one for French in the following year. It soon became apparent that he was a most exceptional boy. He was an all-round athlete, winning the Under 12 hurdles and high jump, coming first in the Under 12 swimming, winning the open diving and finishing second in the open swimming. He was in the soccer, rugger and cricket teams. His highest score in cricket was 19 not out, but the Chronicle described him as 'a good cricketer all round, and very lively in the field'. He was equally successful at soccer, starting as centre-half in the 2nd XI and then being promoted to

1st XI goalkeeper, where he distinguished himself in match after match. No fuss was made of the Prince at Cheam, and his contemporaries thought of him entirely as one of themselves. Philip, as they all called him, was regarded as just foreign royalty. Of course, nobody could foresee the great place he was destined to hold in English life, but the Headmaster wrote tellingly at the time – without hindsight, as Princess Elizabeth was still a schoolgirl – that 'Philip held himself like a king in all that he did.'" I was present at the tercentenary in July 1947 when Cheam was handed over to Peter Beck and Mark Wheeler. A few days later, the engagement was announced between Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten and Princess Elizabeth. Two months after that I entered the school and began six of the happiest years of my life.

Michael CHURCHILL (84-16): Prince Philip began his 2013 visit to Cheam in the Mallinson Room, where he spent a considerable time studying the school photograph of 1933, quietly reflecting on fellow pupils who were with him at the school, some of whom lost their lives in World War II. On leaving the room, he suddenly turned and came back. With only Jimmy Taylor (30-35) and myself present, he pointed at a row of old school caps hanging on the wall and mentioned that he didn't keep his for long after leaving Cheam as he gave it to a fellow pupil at Salem to hide the indignity of having had his head shaved by anti-Semites. This fact was mentioned by Gyles Brandreth in his book *Philip: The Final Portrait*, published after his death, in which he also mentioned the other comment Prince Philip made to us. He said that at Salem he couldn't take the Heil Hitler salute seriously, as at Cheam exactly the same arm gesture was used to indicate to a master that a boy wanted permission to go to the lavatory.

Noel KEHOE (03-): The Duke visited Cheam on 22nd November 2013 – 50 years to the day after President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. I decided to teach my History class about the events of that day. I wasn't expecting the Duke to arrive in my lesson, but it was a pleasant surprise when he walked in, especially as he had actually shaken hands with the slain President all those years ago. Now here I was shaking hands with the Duke of

Edinburgh! He enquired about the lesson, and I then asked him where he was when he heard the news of President Kennedy's assassination. He responded: "Luton Hoo!"

Sarah MAITLAND (94-02): I was lucky enough to work in The Duke of Edinburgh's Office from 1961 to 1968, when I left to get married. Many years and three children later, I worked at Cheam for two Headmasters, Chris Evers and Mark Johnson. During this time His Royal Highness visited Cheam in 1996 to lay the foundation stone for the new Science Building. As an Old Boy of Cheam, which was still in Surrey when he was a pupil, Prince Philip always took a keen interest in the school and was pleased to hear that the school had become co-educational in 1997. During his visit in 1996 he had lunch in the Dining Hall, sitting at a table with some senior boys (no girls back then!), and they were able to ask him about his time at Cheam.

Prince Philip was a wonderful 'boss', and we in the Office (rather quaintly known as Lady Clerks) took it in turns to go on many overseas tours, some to exotic places and some a bit hairier. A very rough trip to Iceland in HMY Britannia and to visit British trawlermen in the North Sea in the middle of the Cod Wars left few still standing, but those of us who were enjoyed the best and freshest cod I have ever eaten, sent over on a line from one of the trawlers. We travelled mainly in aircraft of the Queen's Flight, often piloted by HRH, typed speeches and kept up with correspondence whilst en route to the next destination. It was always stimulating and huge fun.

In the early 1960s Prince Philip bought a beautiful (if somewhat elderly) ocean-going yacht, Bloodhound, which he enjoyed racing during Cowes Week and taking the family for trips round the Western Isles in the summer. In between times, Bloodhound was available to be leased out to youth clubs, sea cadets, etc, complete with crew, which enabled many young people to have a chance to learn to sail. He was an avid reader. I remember being asked to send many copies of Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, to people he thought might be interested, when most of us had hardly heard about Climate Change and Global Warming.



I find it sad that it is only now that Prince Philip has died that there is recognition of all that he did. I know that he found it frustrating that the media accompanied him on so many engagements, largely in the hope of scooping one of his so-called gaffes (mainly designed to break the ice and lighten the atmosphere), which in reality detracted from the real purpose of his visit. However, I suspect that he would dismiss my comment with a wry smile as he didn't like encomia. "You just get on with it!"

John SUTCLIFFE (34-39) wrote in his memoirs: I was due to go up to Cambridge in October 1947, so I had a brief holiday to see relations and friends. During the summer, on July 5th, I attended a memorable tercentenary reunion at

Cheam School, where I met a number of old friends that I had not seen for some time. I was greeted in the main hall by Jack Malden sitting in the entrance, who said, "Don't tell me. Let me get it", and then, after a pause, "How are you, Bertie?" My nickname derived from Herbert Sutcliffe, the great cricketer. The next figure through the door had been in the papers for some time, so I recognised him at once, but Jack went through the same pause, coming up with "How are you, Philip?" Philip Mountbatten's engagement to Princess Elizabeth was announced in the following week.

Alan Williams wrote as follows: The death of Prince Philip reminded me that my grandfather, **Arthur WILLIAMS (21-35)**, was a member of staff at the old Cheam



Top right: Arthur Williams with his wife, Emma, in the 1930s.



Bottom right: 1st XI Cricket 1933

P.A.D. Rydon (33-34), L.S. Buxton (29-33), P de W. Rawson (28-33), Prince Philip of Greece

J.H. Worth (30-34), A.G. Hughes-Onslow (29-33), C.W.S. Lubbock (29-33), T.G. Ridpath (28-33), M.S. Mallinson (29-33)

B.R. Bland (30-36), B.B. Rodwell (30-35)

School and used to speak of his woodwork pupil, Philip. Before Cheam he taught carpentry at Osborne Naval College on the Isle of Wight, where he taught Louis Mountbatten and the future King George VI when they were cadets. My grandfather carved several long wooden memorials with the names of the school members who died in the 1st World War, and these were displayed in the School Chapel. Many years after teaching Philip at Cheam, he was visiting Cowes during the regatta and was spotted by Philip, who said, "Good Lord! There's old Williams!" (Editor: The memorial boards are now hanging in the Chapel foyer at the present school).

THE PRINCE AND THE CAPTAIN OF CRICKET



Cheam School was buzzing. In April 1996, Prince Philip was going back to his alma mater to celebrate Cheam School's 350th anniversary and to lay the foundation stone for a new Science building. Also on his agenda, he wanted to meet the cricket team as he had fond memories of playing for the Cheam School 1st XI back in 1933.

The plan was for the Duke of Edinburgh to watch the boys having a practice session in the area just below the West Porch. Unfortunately, the weather was foul; a dull, misty drizzle had set in. It was felt by those planning the itinerary that Prince Philip might want to cancel the cricket session, but the Prince was not going to be put off by some inclement weather; he wanted to see the boys in action.

As cricket coach, I was to oversee the practice session. Owing to the weather, I made sure I was rugged up for the occasion, so I put on my warm Free Foresters' long-sleeved crimson, white and green cricket jumper to ward off the biting chill. Unfortunately, I was also attired in my bright red tracksuit pants, which made me look more like Bozo the Clown than a bona fide cricket coach.

As the boys were netting in the drizzle, using a tennis ball instead of the usual leather variety, Prince Philip wandered over, accompanied by the popular, well-respected, gregarious Headmaster, Chris Evers, and the Chairman of Governors, Sir Peter Herbert.

Prince Philip was elegantly dressed in his white shirt, Cheam School tie, long thick trousers (turned up at the ankles), a sensible long brown overcoat and wearing wet-weather shoes to keep out the damp. Over his left shoulder he balanced a red and blue umbrella to ward off the English mist. Out of the corner of my eye I could see the Duke of Edinburgh was in a light-hearted mood as he was sharing a joke with Chris and Sir Peter.

As the trio began to make their way towards me, I began to remind myself: 'I must call him Your Royal Highness, I must call him Your Royal Highness, I must call him Your Royal

Highness'. The last thing I wanted to do was embarrass Chris and Sir Peter by blurting out, 'G'day, Phil'. Everyone wanted the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Cheam to be memorable and uplifting.

Chris Evers made his way over to me and said to Prince Philip: "Prince Philip, please meet our cricket coach, Jerome Griffin."

"How do you do?" enquired the Duke.

"Pleased to meet you, Prince Philip," I replied in my Australian drawl. Straightaway I admonished myself for not calling him Your Royal Highness.

"You're Australian," answered Prince Philip. "Don't tell me they're letting Australians into the Free Foresters these days!" It was then that I looked down at my cricket jumper and suddenly remembered that Prince Philip was the Patron of the Free Foresters and had enjoyed turning out for the club in his younger days.

My reply was: "Not only are they letting Australians into the Free Foresters, Prince Philip, but they are even inviting guys like me onto the committee."

Prince Philip laughed and then enquired: "You are on the committee with Philip Whitcombe, Anthony Woodcock and Michael Parsons? That is fantastic. Are you enjoying the club?"

"I am loving it. I play most Sundays and run the fixture against Sherborne School."

"I have fond memories of my time with the Foresters," stated Prince Philip. "Tell me. Do you have a captain of the boys' XI?"

"I do. His name is Anthony Bell, and he will be joining your grandson, William, at Eton this year," was my reply. Anthony, the blond-haired 13-year-old, was duly summoned from the nets to meet the Duke.

"Prince Philip, this is Anthony Bell, our cricket captain," I announced.

"Good afternoon, Anthony. I am pleased to meet you," said Prince Philip.

"Good afternoon, Your Royal Highness," replied Anthony. The young captain addressed the prince better than me and looked up earnestly at the Duke.

Prince Philip then addressed Anthony: "It is so good to be playing cricket. It is early season, but how do you think your team will go this year?"

As long as I live, I will never forget Anthony's reply. The young lad pondered for a moment, put his left hand to his chin as if deep in thought and replied, "I think it will all depend on the opposition." Instantly, all those within earshot – the Prince, Chris Evers, Sir Peter and I – looked at each other in amazement, and we all had an admirable chuckle at such an unexpected but wise response. Automatically, Anthony's reply put a spring in Prince Philip's step, and despite the dismal weather the young captain's analysis brightened everyone's day. After the laughter subsided, I thought I would be bold and take the opportunity to ask Prince Philip a question (I always subscribe to the old saying, 'if you don't ask, you don't get').

"Prince Philip, I am taking the boys to Zimbabwe on a cricket tour next year, and I was wondering if you would like to write a letter of support for the touring magazine."

With a smile still on his face after Anthony Bell's memorable statement, Prince Philip replied: "I would be delighted to write an article for your magazine. Just contact my secretary as I would love to be of help."

As Prince Philip began to make his way over to open the new Science Block, he said: "It was very nice to meet you. Good luck with the boys' cricket season – and with the Free Foresters. And, by the way, I loved your captain's response to my question."

After Prince Philip left Cheam with his entourage, it was felt by all those in attendance that the Duke of Edinburgh enjoyed his visit to his old school. To this day, I am amazed at how an innocent, warm, sincere, wise comment – in a formal situation – can ease the tension and brighten up everyone's day. Go to the top of the class, Anthony Bell!

Jerome Griffin (91-01)

Harry Lidgley's second lap of Britain in 12 months



Celebrated mountaineer Chris Bonington concludes his book *Quest for Adventure* by trying to posit the 'why?' of adventurers who go to extreme lengths in pursuit of their goals. "Man's quest for adventure is not so much 'because it is there'; the answer lies concealed, mysterious, in the complexity of man."

I, too, wondered, uncertain, what motivates me to do the things I do, as I crouched under the pitiful protection of a tree branch during a hailstorm, just a few hours after setting off from Poole on another man-powered lap of Britain. Last year I fought my way round in 42 days with Charles Bromhead (03-11) as part of a rowing team, and this year I decided to go it alone.

Cycling solo proved a very different challenge; I made the decisions and I had to rely on myself (and my remote support team – thanks, Mum!) when it came to key matters such as training and logistics prep, navigation, nutrition, sleep management, etc. Despite fending for myself most of the time, it was far from a lonely expedition. I was raising money for the RNLI and called in at every lifeboat station around the coast, so I met a lot of very enthusiastic volunteers and genuine

characters. I also saw the best in people, when total strangers would go to surprising lengths to help me out, like sourcing an emergency replacement wheel in remotest west Scotland! Our coastline is a wonderful miscellany of geographies and peoples (and weathers), so this was another experience to savour.

I made it back to RNLI HQ in Poole after 34 days and over 6,500 kilometres cycled, having seen 168 lifeboat stations and been offered a lot of tea. I'm not sure I'm really any closer to understanding my concealed and mysterious drive for endurance challenges, but I know it's only been fuelled more – though, having seen the British coastline from the sea and from the land now, I think it's time to look elsewhere for new adventures.

Harry Lidgley (02-11)



Andrew Godwin – an appreciation

Andrew Godwin worked at Prior's Court School, Chieveley, in the 1980s. When that school moved to Bath, Andrew had to look elsewhere for a job, and it was fortunate for Cheam that the school was looking for an assistant groundsman at the same time. There being only one assistant groundsman in those days, Andrew slipped into his role more or less unnoticed, but in the Spring Term 1990 two major events took place that brought Andrew's career to the fore. In February 1990 John Longhurst, the head groundsman, died, and by then Andrew had proved his worth. His stamina and devotion to his work, as well as his pleasant manner, were enough to tell the then Headmaster, Chris Evers, and Bursar, Harry Marment, that Andrew was worthy of being the man in charge of the grounds. Until then, Andrew's life at Cheam had been pretty run of the mill, but one particular event on 25th January 1990 showed Andrew's capabilities at their best. Cheam had largely escaped the perils of the 1987 Great Storm, but three years later a second storm struck and played havoc throughout the south of England. Cheam did not escape. Trees fell like skittles, many of them across the A339. Boys were banned from the grounds as flying debris created an unsafe environment. In those days there was a horse-box shed behind the cricket pavilion, and I remember watching it being lifted off the ground and dumped elsewhere, smashed to smithereens, with its contents strewn all over the place, with lighter material such as rugby balls and flags travelling fast in the direction of the wind. Despite the conditions, John Longhurst, Andrew and I were running all over the place trying to retrieve these pieces of equipment.

The gale became just one of several natural disasters that have beset Cheam over the years, others including drought, flooding and snow. Such weather phenomena brought their difficulties and headaches, but Andrew always coped well with them and managed, with others, to get normality back fairly quickly.

Andrew's main work was in the grounds, particularly in preparing the fields for the various outdoor sports that Cheam offers. He knew his trade and at the beginning of each sporting season he managed to produce a set of pitches (rugby, football and hockey) that were the envy of many visiting teams over the years. This was no easy task, especially when the number of pupils began to grow and the grounds were extended, taking back land that had previously been rented out to local farmers. Of all the sports it was cricket that received the most attention. Given the good weather of the summer, Andrew would be up early and working on the squares before the rest of the community had stirred. In my latter days I would regularly walk my dog Bracken through the grounds at 7.15 am and see Andrew mowing and rolling the pitches or whitening the creases in preparation for games and matches that would be taking place later in the day.

Then there were the projects that Andrew set himself. When the pressure was off on the games front, he would still find things to do as relaxation was not in his make-up. He spent a lot of time in the woods, clearing undergrowth, thinning trees, creating paths, building bridges and generally managing an environment that had been neglected for

years. He built a wood store at the far end of the long walk. He spent hours digging out and looking after the pond, another area that had been ignored over the years, and persuaded keen anglers to engage in their fishing hobby to see what they could catch. He also created an area around the pond where nature reigned supreme, away from the pounding of sporting feet. Back near the main buildings, he uprooted the stone blocks on the east side of the courtyard and used them to create parking bays outside the entrance to the back passage. He also helped convert the greenhouses into the shooting range. I could continue with many further examples of his projects, but I shall be quick to add that he was never alone in the work that he did.

As the school grew and the grounds were extended over the years, demands increased and others were employed to help Andrew in his tasks. There have been some great characters amongst the ground staff over the years, and Andrew can be proud of the team that he left behind when he retired. They are people who will look back on their Cheam careers and admit that they were well trained and nurtured by Andrew, and that they learnt a lot from him. They were a great team, always willing to put in extra work when the need arose. The games staff knew that they could rely on this team and have much to thank them for in terms of the devotion to duty that became their hallmark.

Towards the end of the Summer Term, I would often find myself sitting on the steps of the West Porch in the evening sunshine. The day had almost ended, and the boarders had retired to bed. There may have been the odd adult practising golf strokes or wandering down a path in the distance, but the overall picture was one of peace and near-perfection. Such a scene would be admired by visitors to the school at different times of the day, and over the years many parents commented on the magic of Cheam's grounds. They were the result of a team effort – one must not ignore that fact – but in particular they were a tribute to one man, who devoted nearly 33 years of his life to give Cheam what he strove for – a perfection that he was justly proud of.

Andrew deserves his retirement, though sadly it is one that he cannot share with Jenny, whose death was recorded in the last Newsletter. He will continue to live in Headley, and I am sure there will be many Cheam friends whom he will regularly see and share memories with. Thank you, Andrew, for all you have done for Cheam.

Michael Churchill (84-16)



Huw Powell (03-21)



'Oh, my goodness! Where do I begin?' That was my first thought when I was asked to write something about my very good friend Huw Powell, or 'Powelly', as all old Cheamites will know him. Well, the Welsh Wizard has finally retired after nearly 38 years of teaching, and it wasn't only his teaching style that motivated the many boys and girls under his care. I would use the word 'inspire' as a far more accurate word of what Powelly managed to do for children.

Huw's career began in 1983 when he went to run the games at Hawtreys, near Marlborough. It was two years later when I first met him on the sports field as a rival coach. It was always a David-against-Goliath occasion as Farleigh was a much bigger school, but it made no difference as the Hawtreys boys stretched us every time. It was during these occasions that we saw first-hand what an outstanding coach Powelly was.

In 1994 Hawtreys closed and merged with Cheam, and as soon as Farleigh heard the news, they 'pounced' – it was the signing of the year! In those days Farleigh always produced steady results on the games field, but with the Powelly factor things rapidly improved in the three main sports. Huw very quickly got fully involved in the cross-country and athletics, and here again individual and team performances started to improve rapidly. In 2001 I moved on to Cheam, and two years later Huw made the same journey up the A34 and began his 18 years of inspiring Cheam children. He very quickly took on the running of the 1st XI football with Tom Haigh, the 1st XV rugby with Justin Lynam, with whom he had also worked at Farleigh, a selection of cricket teams, the athletics, again with Justin, and of course the cross-country.

Huw's main job was to run the PE in the school, and his appointment at Cheam coincided very nicely with the opening of the new Sports Hall. He also managed to lead Tabor to huge success as their Division Leader following years of lounging in the doldrums. He could also be a popular and effective form tutor when called upon and a highly skilled mentor to pupils in their last year. In all areas Huw managed to make everything fun for the boys and girls in his charge, and he took as much interest in the girls' successes as he did in the boys.

It didn't matter what talent there was for him to work with; the results were always the same. He was an outstanding coach and motivator, and his teams would not only run into a brick wall for him, they would smash it into pieces! I must particularly mention the cross-country, because the success he achieved was incredible, the highlight being the hat-trick of National titles he won with both boys and girls at Malvern. I gave Huw the impossible job of telling me what he thought his greatest achievement was. Cross-country was at the top of the list, but there were others that were very close behind, such as unbeaten rugby teams, six-a-side football area champions, various cricket tours to South Africa (from Cheam) and rugby tours to Ireland (from Farleigh). I'm surprised he didn't mention the huge number of successes he had at the National Athletics Championships, where his athletes medalled in every track and field discipline (with the exception of the 300 metres – this one eluded him!). It wasn't just his coaching and motivational skills which brought out the best in so many children; it was the sense of fair play and fun which he instilled. I always thought, if I could bottle it all, I would call it 'Powelly Magic' and make myself a small fortune, but I wouldn't sell it to the Welsh!

After an amazing 38-year career, the Welsh Wizard has now retired to his beloved Wales, and there will be hundreds of boys and girls out there who would just like to say one thing: 'Thank you very much indeed, Powelly'. This would also be echoed by many of his colleagues, both past and present, from Hawtreys, Farleigh and Cheam. They, too, would wish to thank him for being such a good friend and a positive presence and support over the years. Enjoy your retirement, Huw! You deserve it!

Philip Watts (01-17) and Justin Lynam (08-20)

FOR THE RECORD 2021

Here are the statistics relating to the 2021 leavers:

The leaver who was in the school for the longest period of time is Hanna EXLEY, who started in Nursery in September 2010.

The longest associated family, having completed 15 years without a break, is the EXLEY family. At the end of term, the school said goodbye to Hanna EXLEY (10-21), whose brother, Jan EXLEY (06-16), had also been educated at Cheam.

The family whose children's total number of terms added together came out on top was the Prest family, who totalled 102 terms between them: Leo PREST (10-16), Jago PREST (10-18), Wilf PREST (10-20) and Rory PREST (11-21).

The school said goodbye to one family in July whose links go back through at least eight generations. Skye PLEYDELL-BOUVERIE (17-21) was the last of the Pleydell-Bouvieries to leave the school in recent years. The school's link with her ancestors is impressive. During the years when William Gilpin junior was Headmaster (1777-1805), there was a pupil in the school called James Walter Grimston (born 1775). We don't know the actual dates he was at Cheam, but he later married Lady Charlotte Jenkinson in 1807, and they had ten children – six sons and four daughters. One of their daughters was Lady Mary Augusta Frederica Grimston (1820-1879), who married the 4th Earl of Radnor. As the line goes from generation to generation without a break, this means that James Walter Grimston is the great-great-great-great-grandfather of Jack (07-12), Luke (08-13), Dan (10-15), Ned (12-17) and Skye. It is thought that James Walter Grimston's father was James Bucknall Grimston, who was at Cheam around 1755. If this is the case, the Pleydell-Bouvierie links go even further back, to William Gilpin senior (Headmaster 1752-1777).

Although they are not leaving, there are two staff who completed their 25th year at the school in July 2021, both of whom arrived in September 1996. Andrew GABBITAS arrived from the Dragon School, Oxford, to take over the PE department and teach sport, and Judi LEGON started her stint as Head Matron.

We Shall Remember Them



Crispin Stuart Leworthy BAKER (1939-2020, CHEAM 47-52)

Dr Crispin Baker was born on 18th May 1939. After Cheam he was educated at Charterhouse. In 1957 he attended London University, obtaining a BSc in Chemistry, followed by a PhD on Allenes and Acetylenes. He then became a Research Fellow at Fourah Bay College in Freetown, Sierra Leone. On returning to England in 1965, he went to work at the Malaysian Rubber Producers' Research Association in Brickendonbury, Hertford. He was seconded to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia with his family from 1981 to 1982 and later became Director of Research for the organisation from 1987 until his retirement in 1999. He was married to Christine, and they had two children, Viki and Alex. He died on 25th October 2020.

Mark Alfred Lowe BATCHELOR (1941-2020, CHEAM 65-68)

Mark Batchelor died on 11th December 2020. He read History at university and became a schoolmaster at Cheam, where he taught a variety of subjects, including top History and minor Classics. He became involved in the pilot teaching of the Cambridge Latin Course, and the Department of Education even sent someone to watch his teaching! He coached 1st XI

football, Colts rugby and bottom cricket. He also ran the photography dark room and shooting. He went to the Bar in 1971 and was still actively practising in 2020, nearly 50 years later. Initially his practice dealt primarily with criminal work, but in later years he became very involved in family law, with regard to both children and finance. He was a great advocate – fearless, extremely persuasive and with a lovely turn of phrase. He was also great fun to be up against and to spend time with at court. He was active in local, and at one stage national, politics. He was passionate about helping under-privileged young people gain access to open spaces, particularly to the river, and was very involved at the Westminster Boating Base.



Susan BUSBRIDGE (1943-2021, CHEAM 00-08)

Susi Busbridge was a formidable draughtswoman and a genius with colour, who devoted her working life to teaching children about the importance of art and being creative in everything we do. She taught Art at Cheam for eight years. She died after two long battles with cancer on 15th April 2021 at the age of 78. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Robin (Buzz), and to the rest of their family.

David CAGEAO (1973-2021, CHEAM 18-20)

David Cageao was Head of English at Cheam. He taught at Exeter School and later Millfield Prep, before taking up his appointment at Cheam in September 2018.



Ian Hilton CUTBILL (1933-2020, CHEAM 42-47)

Ian Cutbill died on 12th October 2020. He had many happy memories of his time at Cheam. It was at the school, on long walks during Natural History lessons, that he developed his love of nature, especially birdlife, which lasted him a lifetime. Another important effect the school had on him was watching the aircraft from Greenham Common airbase. He had vivid memories of watching paratroopers training over the airbase and gliders being towed from the airfield as pilots were trained, and a particular highlight was being taken on a trip by the school to the base to look at the aircraft. He also remembered watching planes towing gliders from the airbase on their way to Normandy for the D-Day landings. That interest in aircraft and flying led to his joining the RAF when he left Charterhouse and then becoming an engineer at De Havilland, which ultimately shaped his career. He was very involved in his local Worcester South Rotary Club in later years, and the photo of him was taken when he was President of this club.

Patrick John ELLWOOD (Brigadier) (1930-2020, CHEAM 38-43)

Patrick Ellwood was born on 3rd May 1930. His father, the Rev. Charles John Ellwood (01-03), and his brothers, Geoffrey (35-40) and Martin (45-50), were also educated at Cheam. Following Cheam, he went to Marlborough College with a Foundation Scholarship and then did his National Service in the Gunners.

He enjoyed army life, especially as it gave him plenty of time to play cricket and hockey. He served in the UK, BAOR, Ireland, Hong Kong and Oman, where he commanded the Northern Brigade. He finished his army career on the staff of the regular Commission Board at Westbury. On retirement he moved to Dorset, where he worked for the Cancer Research Campaign, organising fundraising in Dorset, Somerset, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, a daughter, two grandchildren and a great-grandson.



Jan Lewis FORTESCUE (1938-2020, CHEAM 47-51)

Jan Fortescue was at Cheam from 1947 to 1951 and then went on to Bryanston School. His brother, Thomas, was also at Cheam. Jan's funeral was on 26th September 2020.

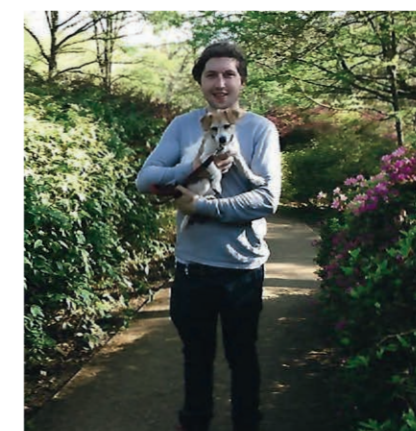
Hugh Clayton LOWTHER, 8th Earl of Lonsdale (1949-2021, CHEAM 57-59)

Hugh Lowther was born on 27th May 1949, the oldest son of James Lowther, later 7th Earl of Lonsdale, and was educated at Cheam. On the death of the 6th Earl of Lonsdale in 1953, James Lowther succeeded to the earldom, and Hugh Lowther became Viscount Lowther. He inherited 5,000 acres of land in the Lake District, including the 868-metre high mountain, Blencathra. The estate produced little income, so Lowther turned to long-distance lorry driving as a career. He inherited the earldom on the death of his father in 2006 but had fallen out with his father and his family during the 2000s over the estate and again after the death of his father, a matter which was not resolved until 2009. In May 2014, in order to pay an inheritance tax bill, he put Blencathra up for sale, but ultimately he found other means to pay the bill and withdrew the mountain from sale. He died on 22nd June 2021 at the age of 72.



Thomas Duncan McCLURE (1985-2020, CHEAM 94-99)

Tom McClure was born on 29th October 1985. He was the son of Richard McClure and Mausi Stanley. His brothers, Luke (90-95) and Felix (97-02), and sister, Imogen Stanley (08-10), were all educated at Cheam. After Cheam he went on to Harrow School and then had a gap year in South Africa with Quest Overseas. In 2005 he went to Newcastle University, where he gained a degree in Zoology. He worked in sales for a period of time and then decided that his real passion was tree surgery. This, however, was when his health started to decline, and after many mis-diagnoses he was admitted to hospital in December 2018. He died on 21st December 2020, aged 35. The family would like it to be known, in case anyone wishes to donate, that in Tom's memory they collected money for the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability.



Richard Alan OPPERMAN (1936-2020, CHEAM 47-49)

Dickie Opperman was born on 14th June 1936. After Cheam he was educated at Stowe School. He married Ursula Peto in 1960, and they had two sons, Mark (70-76) and Nicholas (73-79). He served as a Cheam Governor for 17 years between 1978 and 1995 and was Vice-Chairman at the time of the merger with Hawtreys in 1994. He also produced a Cheam staff play, *The Happiest Days of Your Life*, in 1981. He died on 16th November 2020.

David Charles SHEPLEY- CUTHBERT (1946-2021, CHEAM 55-59)

David Shepley-Cuthbert was born in June 1946. After Cheam he was educated at Eton College. He became a Chartered Accountant and lived near Banbury in Oxfordshire. He was married to Bridget, and they had three children – Julia, Nicola and Victoria. He died on 4th February 2021, aged 74.

Hugh Gerald SIMONDS (1946-2020, CHEAM 54-57)

Gerald Simonds was born in March 1946. After Cheam he was educated at Stonyhurst College. Eventually he started his own company, Gerald Simonds Healthcare, who were suppliers of high-end and specialist wheelchairs and mobility equipment, initially based near the Spinal Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. He made a huge contribution to the lives of disabled people there and worldwide, and he gained an international reputation for his expertise and that of his company. Gerald died on 31st March 2020. He was married and left a widow, Sue.



We have also heard of the following deaths:

September 2020

Guy Dawnay
father of Kit (85-90) and Mark (87-92) Dawnay.

October 2020

Angela Mathew
mother of Guy Mathew (86-90).

November 2020

Caroline Dudley-Williams
mother of Nicholas (83-88) and Patrick (86-91) Dudley-Williams.

News of staff & former pupils

George AYLARD (02-12) took his Finals at Cambridge in the summer and enjoyed coaching the college rowing crews (men and women).

Anthony BELL (91-96) went to Eton after Cheam and then, after a gap year in Botswana teaching English, he went to Durham University to study Economics. He then started a career in investment banking before transitioning into commercial property investment. He married his wife, Amy, in 2013 and now has three children – Sienna (6), Phoebe (4) and Joshua (2). They live in south-west London. Within a few days of writing, he had dinner with fellow old boys, Ben MOORE-BRABAZON (91-96) and Freddie CORLETT (91-96). ‘This is coincidental rather than reflective of how much I have seen them since Cheam. My daughter Phoebe is in the same nursery class as Ben’s son Max. It will be fun to see them, and no doubt we will re-live some stories from our school days’.



Paul BILLINGER (14-21) left Cheam in July 2021 and now works at King Edward’s School, Southampton. At Cheam he was Head of the IT Department, later relinquishing the post to become Network Manager.

Eliza CAMERON (04-13) started her final year at Durham University in September, reading Politics and Philosophy.

Hannah CAMERON (06-12) graduated from Newcastle University in 2021. She then had a last hurrah with Minnie ROYDEN (04-10) before she started work at Goodman Masson in London at the end of August 2021.

Mary CARVER (88-20) retired on 10th November 2020. She began her Cheam career working in the dining rooms, mainly washing up, but she will be best remembered as the lady running the laundry facilities at the end of the back passage. Because of the regular contact she had with the children, they all knew her. What might surprise some of them was the fact that she knew all of them, too. Always cheerful and willing to help where needed, Mary gave much to Cheam, and we, in turn, greatly appreciated it all.



Edwina COBB (98-04) has started up, and is working for, her own charity, ADAPT (Addicts Are People Too). The idea is to help addicts who have been in rehab to get back into life and work. She opened her first house for those in recovery in October 2019 and now has four in Oxford, and she is hoping to eventually go nationwide with this project.

Freddie CORLETT (91-96) started working for Savills in 2007 and qualified as a chartered surveyor in 2009. Since then, he has been working at 33 Margaret Street, Global HQ, as a director. He specialises in office occupational markets, advising landlords on development and leasing and occupiers on acquiring predominantly medium to large office buildings in central London. The pandemic was not good news for the office market as everyone worked from home, but things are finally appearing to be

returning to some form of normality, though the focus of the office has evolved a little! He counts as his hobbies surfing, watching rugby and gardening. In 2014 he married Joanna Richards, and they have a daughter, Olivia, born in 2017, and a son, Edward, born in 2020. He occasionally sees Anthony BELL (91-96), Nick COOK (91-96), Ben MOORE-BRABAZON (91-96), Simon COX (91-96), Tom CANNON (87-93), David RICHMOND-WATSON (94-96) and Douglas McALPINE (94-96).



Anthony CRAGG (63-69) has retired from a long career in international investment management. Recently he published the third volume of his poetry, *From Spires to Peaks*. The book is dedicated to three of his most important teachers. One was at Oxford and one at Harrow, but the earliest and perhaps the most formative was Christopher STUART-CLARK (63-68) at Cheam.

Adam CRIPWELL (08-17) is in the Lower Sixth at Marlborough and is hoping to have a gap year before reading Business at university in September 2023.

Andrew CROWTHER (50-55). Whilst packing up to move house, he came across a number of photographs of plays written and produced by David MUNIR (51-63). ‘He cleverly wrote a first act that led on to a full performance of *Trial by Jury*, in which I had a full bottom wig and scarlet coat. I became a GP and did not go into Law. Another play featured a camel, and I was the camel handler as we tracked down two robbers – Horris and Hill, named after our arch-rival school at games.’

Lara DAVIDSON (12-18) has just completed her GCSEs at St Edward’s, Oxford, and has had some work experience at a jewellery company in London. She started in the Sixth Form in September 2021, studying for ‘A’ levels in Drama, Jewellery Design and French.

Jessica DAVY (08-13) is at Edinburgh University, reading English Literature. She is now in her third year, which she is spending abroad at Charles University, Prague.

Zoë DEACON (08-) and her husband, Henry, have had a baby boy, born on 27th October 2020. He is called Josiah John (Jos), a brother for Nathanael and Benedict.



Claire DEDDEN (18-) and her husband, Grant, have had a baby, Dahlia, born on 28th July 2021. She is a sister to Walter.

Patrick DERHAM (82-84) retired in July 2020. He has written an article for this Newsletter (Page 5).

Aaran DONLEVY (08-12) left Bishop’s Stortford College in July 2020, where he had been Head of Art in the Junior School. He has now moved to Doha, Qatar, with his wife and two children.

Georgie ELY (09-12) studied Biomedical Science at Bristol University and began working for the consultancy company, Kubrick, in London in September 2021.

Andrew GODWIN (88-21) retired in March 2021 after 32 years at Cheam. There is an appreciation of his work on Page 12.

Daisy GRAY (08-13) finished her first year at Newcastle University in July 2021, where she is studying Film, following a couple of gap years. She loves university life and looks forward to when Covid restrictions are relaxed a little and clubs reopen.

Louisa GRIFFITHS (19-) and her husband, Alex, have had a baby, Emmelina, born on 24th August 2021. She is a sister to William.

Bruce HAINES (99-21), the School’s Clerk of Works, retired at the end of May after 21 years of service to Cheam. Much of the improvement to the buildings and facilities at Cheam in recent years was down to the

hard work and commitment of Bruce, ably supported by the rest of the maintenance team. He cared deeply about the school and was a true craftsman in terms of the quality of his work and his ability to turn his hand to many different projects. He decided that 2021 was the year to hang up his tools, and he was looking forward to spending more time at home, as well as getting on the road in his campervan when things open up (and it stops raining!). We wish Bruce all the best for his retirement.



Olivia INGHAM (17-20), the Headmaster’s Secretary, left Cheam in October 2020 as a result of her family moving house to Wiltshire.

Jenny JONES (04-08) and her daughter, Rosie AYLARD (04-14), were seen taking part in an episode of *Pointless* on television in April. This was a throwback to the days when Rosie would jump on the school bus and return home to her mother in time for them to watch the programme together over a cup of tea. She used to say, ‘We should go on this’. In 2020 she decided to apply and was successful. They appeared in several programmes, ultimately reaching the final, but none of their three answers on Music Hall lyrics received the pointless score required to secure the total winnings, so they just ended up with a trophy!



Tristan MCMULLAN (78-83) left Cheltenham College in 1988 and took a year off to travel with a fellow Cheltonian. He studied Medicine at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where he was involved in college rugby and was secretary of the University Pitt Club. He dabbled in student politics but didn’t get too involved. After qualification in 1994, he was a junior doctor in East Anglia and then started Ophthalmology training in Salisbury, where he did a PhD in Human Genetics, looking at the genes behind droopy eyelids, and helped in the Human Genome Project. He completed his Ophthalmology training on the Cambridge rotation and did fellowship training in eyelid and cosmetic surgery in Norwich and then Salt Lake City, Utah. He took up a consultant post in Northampton in 2007 and is now a full-time consultant, as well as deputy director of medical education. He is an honorary senior lecturer at Leicester University and splits his time between looking after eye patients and Leicester and Oxford medical students. He and his wife, Lucinda, married in 1999, and they have two children. He says the last time he met anybody from Cheam, apart from his brother, was when he was coming out of Twickenham and heard someone in the crowd in front of him talking about another Cheam boy who was a legend when he was at Cheam, D.C. Na SONGKHLA (71-74). After leaving Cheam, he says he did manage to go fishing with ‘Jenks’ – Roy SOMERSET (70-87) – a few times and was very sad to hear of his death. Tristan has fond memories of him as he fostered his lifelong passions for history and fly-fishing, although he has to confess that his fly-tying would probably make him cringe. He has also managed to cast off his moniker of Mumbo-Jumbo!

Jake MEYER (94-97) was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the 2020 Birthday Honours for services to mountaineering, young people and charity. The medal arrived in the post in April. The cartoon, commissioned by his mother, is by Oliver Preston to mark the (imaginary) occasion of Jake’s investiture, with the Lord Lieutenant leaping over garden fences à la Hot Fuzz, as Jake was told that due to Covid the medal wouldn’t be presented in a central ceremony, but he could arrange for a Deputy Lieutenant to present it privately in his garden. Jake was also promoted to Major in 2020, which was a very proud moment in his (Reserve) Army career. ‘The biggest news, however, of last year was the birth of our third daughter, Sienna, a sister for Ottalie and Poppy. I am now extremely outnumbered’, he said. He and his wife, Saskia, are moving out of London and heading to West Sussex to live south of Haslemere. The older girls started at Highfield & Brookham in Liphook in September. The family spent three months on the farm, his family home, during the

first lockdown in 2020, which was idyllic. He amused the children with stories of the 1997 leavers' camp, which took place there. 'For obvious reasons', he continued, 'my next expedition has been put on hold – hopefully it will take place in summer 2022, having been due to run in summer 2020. This is the Europe 50/50 Challenge, which aims to climb the highest point in all 50 countries in Europe in only 50 days, and somehow I can't think about it without reminiscing about the painful learning of countries, rivers and mountain ranges doled out by an evil Geography teacher all those years ago! I am in touch with John ALLOTT (94-97), married with one daughter and living in Marlborough about 100 metres from his parents, Nic and Claire (94-97), Micky BICKFORD-SMITH (94-97), Roly BAGNALL (94-97) and Freddie BENNETT (91-97), who has popped back into my life in the last few years, having married a close friend of Saskia's'.



Tiphaine MONSAURET (18-) and her partner, Mark Owen, have had a baby boy named Oscar Monsauret Owen. He was born on 14th December 2020 and is a brother to Isaac Owen.



Alexander MOONEY (03-05) is living in London with his fiancée. The wedding is likely to be in Corfu in the summer of 2022. In 2020 they bought two dachshund puppies, Olive (1) and Poppy (3 months). His work is going well, and he recently qualified as an accountant after completing his 16th exam.

Charles MICHELL (47-51) writes: 'During the tiresome season of lockdowns that we have just experienced, I found myself dreaming up a few stories to pass the time away and arranged them in a slim volume for Christmas 2020'.

Ian MUCKLEJOHN, father of Ian MUCKLEJOHN (06-14), Lars MUCKLEJOHN (06-14) and Piers MUCKLEJOHN (06-14), writes: 'I was very saddened to read the news about Jenny GODWIN (00-20) in the last Newsletter. We met several times after the boys left Cheam, always by chance and always in the Tesco car park. I have so many happy memories of her. For summer after summer she was in the kitchens, preparing for our young people when the holiday courses used to take place at Cheam. When the boys were there, it was she who sewed their Cash's woven name-tapes onto every garment, so inept was I with a needle and thread, and with so much blood resulting from my own attempts! She was a wonderfully calming influence on everyone and just thoroughly competent and professional in all her various roles. I wondered when I would next see her at Tesco, and I can hardly believe that this will not happen again. She was far too full of energy to have been taken so soon'.

Denis PALMER (28-33) was born in 1920. After Cheam he went to Denstone College. He then joined the army and became a Captain in the Royal Artillery. His daughter, Carol Challis, writes: 'After fighting Begin's rebels in Beirut, my father was sent to Tripoli, and that's where I was born in 1948. My brother, Johnny, was born in Bovington Military Hospital in 1952, and there followed many postings to places that included Tidworth and Redesdale. We eventually came home to Dorset, and Johnny went to Clayesmore Prep and then to Milton Abbey. Denis, who died in 2006, spoke very fondly of his time at Cheam, and it clearly helped form him into the articulate and precise gentleman he was'.

David RAWSON (12-21). David's Cheam journey came to an end in July 2021 as he retired after nine years at the school. The word 'retire' conjures up connotations of being 'tired', but this was far from the case with him. He still loved the interaction in the classroom – the sense of exploring ideas, the empathy and insight, the fun and laughter. He really enjoyed his time at Cheam and felt privileged to have finished his career alongside such inspiring colleagues. As the former Head of English, he took great pride in overseeing Room 101 debates, dabbling in some drama performances, and running Reading and Public Speaking competitions. He said that watching Cheam pupils mature into such competent and confident communicators was life-affirming.



Sue REED (97-21), who taught Woodland Learning and provided Learning Support in the Pre-Prep, left Cheam in March 2021. She started working at Inhurst House and then moved to Cheam when the schools merged in 1998.



Ben ROBINSON (05-12) gained 11 GCSEs in academic subjects, achieving A*, A and B grades. He applied to Sandhurst to become a Coldstream Guards officer when he left Peter Symonds College, where he studied History, Geography and Classics at 'A' Level. He was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals 250 Queen's Gurkha Signals.



Amy ROWE (14-) and her husband, Martin, have had a baby girl, Charlotte, born on 14th November 2020.



Gayle RUSSELL (12-17) and Toby Marshall got married on May 29th. They only had 30 guests at the wedding due to the ongoing rules, but they still managed to have a solid Cheam representation, with Helen MASON (07-), Belinda MILLAR (13-) and Dominic PIKE (10-) all attending. Helen was a bridesmaid and Belinda did a reading. 'We ended up getting married in London, in the church at the end of our road, then having drinks in our garden and dinner at The Ivy – it was a very happy day! We went to Pembrokeshire for our honeymoon, which was really lovely'.



Catherine SKIPWORTH (07-18) appeared on the front page of *Country Life* on 27th January 2021. Catherine, who is at Downe House, became the youngest woman in the UK to pilot a plane solo when she flew on her 16th birthday in October 2020.

Neville SWAIN (14-18, 20-21) returned to Cheam during the Autumn Term 2020 to help out with the teaching of English to Year 7 and 8 pupils (including the scholars). As time progressed, he was asked to stay on to the end of the academic year, adding another year to his Cheam experience. He enjoyed re-connecting with the children back in the classroom and had to adapt quickly to the whole process of online teaching. He finally retired for good in July.



Clara WILSON (05-13) graduated from Leeds University in the summer, having gained a BA degree in Business Management with 1st Class Honours. In September she was looking for a career but did spend a month in the summer working on courtside services at Wimbledon.

Nakita WRIGHT (13-) and her husband, James, welcomed twins, Freya and William, into the world on 28th December 2020.

News of the 2015 leavers

We have news of many 2015 leavers and thank them and their parents for letting us have details of what they have been doing since leaving school.

Lixy ANDREWS (05-15) went straight to university after leaving Wellington and is now at Exeter University on a Business Studies course.

Kitty ASTOR (09-15) left Marlborough and went straight into her first year at Trinity College, Dublin, where she is studying History and History of Art. She spent most of her summer working at the Pear Tree Café in London.

James BATCHELOR (06-15) spent five years at Radley, where he rowed for the school and was the senior cadet in charge of the CCF. He did his 'A' Levels in History, Politics and Economics. He reluctantly concluded that a Covid gap year wouldn't be as rewarding as normal and so gave up plans to qualify as a ski instructor in Canada. Instead, he spent summer 2020 working at the Covid Testing Centre and then went straight to Cardiff University, where he has now started his second year, studying International Relations.



Lulu BRABBINS (13-15) left Cheltenham Ladies' College and went straight to Exeter University, where she is reading Human Geography.

Oliver BROOKES (10-15) didn't take a gap year and is at Edinburgh University. In September 2021 he started Year 2 of a Politics and Philosophy course.

William BROOKS-WARD (10-15) is at Edinburgh University, reading Politics and Philosophy.

Ali CAMERON (06-15) left Marlborough at the beginning of the pandemic. Despite everything, she had a wonderful gap year, gaining a ski instructor's qualification in Switzerland and then travelling around Costa Rica, Guatemala and Mexico before these countries were banished to the red list. Ali started a History of Art course at Exeter University in September 2021.

Ptolemy CHICHESTER (13-15). After leaving school, Tol went straight to Manchester University in September 2020 to read History of Art and Film. In the Easter holidays he worked at an animal rescue sanctuary in Costa Rica.

Jack CLEVERLY (10-15) enjoyed a gap year, travelling in Costa Rica, Mexico and Guatemala. He is now at Edinburgh University, studying Spanish and Economics.

Venetia COATES (06-15) left St Mary's, Ascot, in 2020 and started at Edinburgh University in September 2021, reading English Literature and History of Art. During her gap year she worked at a school in London to earn money for five months of travel, which were spent in Kenya and Mexico.

Freddie CORDLE (09-15) did a year's foundation course at Oxford Brookes after leaving Bradfield, doing a Business and Finance degree. Also during the year, he was involved in Marine Conservation in Kenya, something he hopes to return to later. He is currently working in London in property.

Poppy CRIPWELL (09-15) started at Durham University in September 2021, reading Liberal Arts. Between lockdowns in 2020 she managed to holiday in Cornwall and Turkey. She was a waitress at a pub

and a golf club before hoping to work as a chalet host in the Alps. When those plans were cancelled, she decided to go to Central America with a girlfriend from Marlborough. They travelled for five months in Costa Rica, Mexico and Guatemala.



Kit DAVIDSON (10-15) spent his first year after school at Edinburgh University, studying Spanish with Business, having decided not to pursue a year off due to the restricted options for travel that Covid created. He headed straight up to Scotland after his time at Harrow and is hoping for a more normal student experience in his second year.

Jack DAVY (08-15) spent the first six months of his gap year helping at the Covid Testing Centre at the North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke. He then spent time in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Mexico. He is now at Oxford Brookes, reading Business Studies.

George DRING (07-15). After finishing at Radley, he spent part of his gap year in Costa Rica and Mexico, where he did some home schooling, cooking and gardening. He is now at St Andrew's University, studying English Literature.

Kit ELY (09-15) started his second year at Leeds University, studying History of Art, in September 2021.

Wilfred EVANS (10-15) spent part of his gap year travelling around Costa Rica, Mexico and Guatemala with Rafa Teniente, Oscar Tosh and a friend from Farleigh. They had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed themselves for four months. This was after he had worked at Blossom House School in Wimbledon, his aunt's SEN school, as a teacher's assistant for a term. In September he began studying Religious Studies at Edinburgh University.

Felix FANSHAW (10-15) is at Newcastle University.

Daisy FOREMAN (07-15) survived the unexpectedly abrupt end to her time at Sherborne Girls' due to Covid and the

subsequent chaos of the 2020 'A' Level results. She began her gap year by taking a cookery course in the hope of obtaining work in a ski resort the following January. She then started work as a gapper at Walhampton prep school in Lymington. As it became clear that a ski season would not be happening, she decided to stay on at Walhampton for the Spring Term. This coincided with the third lockdown, but fortunately the school stayed open for key workers' children and she was able to continue working to fund her travelling. In April she headed to Costa Rica, initially with The Leap, where she volunteered to help reduce the number of micro-plastics on the beaches by working at plastic collection sites, and she also got involved in turtle conservation. She then travelled round Costa Rica with friends, where she met up with lots of others, including many Cheam friends. She has now started at Oxford Brookes, studying Business and Marketing Management.

Eliza GILMOUR (13-15) had a gap year after Sherborne Girls'. She got a bar job at The River Café in London after Rupert Curtis kindly put her name forward. In January she escaped the UK and Covid and headed off to Costa Rica. She volunteered with The Leap, following this with five months travelling around Costa Rica and Mexico, bumping into lots of ex-Cheam friends along the way. Returning to the UK, she went back to The River Café before spending the summer in Cornwall. She started at Exeter University in September 2021.

Louis GORDON CLARK (10-15) had planned to do a gap year but due to Covid decided to go straight to Durham University in October 2020. He is at Hatfield College, reading Accountancy.

Archie GRAY (08-15) had a sad finish to his school life at Radley, with Covid ending his time there early. However, he did obtain the grades he needed and has just finished his first year at Edinburgh University, where he is studying Biomedical Sciences. He is loving his time in Edinburgh and has managed to make the most of it despite all the restrictions. In September he was looking forward to the clubs being opened soon.

Annabel HANNAN (13-15) went straight from Marlborough to Somerville College, Oxford, in 2020. She is reading French and Linguistics and is an Organ Scholar. Her little brother, Alexander (20-), has just finished his first year at Cheam in Reception.

Rose HASTIE (10-15) left St Mary's School, Calne, in 2020 and went straight on to Exeter

University to study Business Economics. She is loving it there, despite the Covid restrictions, and has met up with many old Cheam friends, who are also studying at Exeter.

Ben HATCHER (10-15) is in his second year at Cardiff University, where he is reading Politics and International Relations.

Ella LEESON (10-15) started at the University of Nottingham in September, studying Medicine. During her gap year she worked at a nursing home before travelling to Mexico as a volunteer to take part in a local community programme. She enjoyed exploring the country and spent some time in the US before heading home.



Thomas LEESON (10-15) started at Bristol University in September, studying Philosophy. In the early months of his gap year he was working to fund overseas travel, and then at the start of 2021 he joined a voluntary programme in Costa Rica. Before heading home, he took the opportunity to travel in Costa Rica and also in Guatemala and Mexico.



Archie MACKENZIE-SMITH (10-15) went straight to Exeter University in 2020 to study Business and Management. He had a great time there in spite of the Covid restrictions and was looking forward to a restriction-free year in his second year. Last winter he did some gamekeeping during the Christmas holidays.

Isabella MARK (13-15) started her gap year after Bradfield by working at an orphanage in Zanzibar. This was followed by voluntary work in Costa Rica. Since then, she has been involved in several film productions and in preparing for the Wilderness Festival.

Freddie METHUEN (08-15) is in his second year at Exeter University, reading Archaeology.

Alexia MITCHELL (09-15) spent her gap year volunteering in Costa Rica, working in the luxury goods world in London and exploring New Zealand. In September she started at Durham University, reading Visual Culture and Film.

Katie PEIN (05-15) is at Edinburgh University, studying History of Art. In her gap year she managed to get out to Kenya and South Africa before Covid restrictions set in.

Dan PLEYDELL-BOUVERIE (10-15) did a Foundation course at Leeds University after leaving Radley and has just started at Leeds Art University.

Annabel POWER (10-15) finished her time at Wellington as Deputy Head Girl. This was followed by working at Eagle House as a gap student. She then had a long stint in Costa Rica before nannying locally. She is now at Exeter University, reading Politics and International Relations.

William PUNTER (10-15) finished at Bradfield in March 2020, having not taken his 'A' level exams due to Covid. He embarked on a gap year and, despite the many restrictions during 2020, he managed to achieve his BASI 1&2 ski instructor's qualifications in Switzerland. Will spent the rest of the spring travelling around Costa Rica and Mexico, bumping into a few Cheam friends on his travels. He started at Oxford Brookes in September 2021, reading Business Management and Marketing. He continues to be a keen sportsman, playing golf, tennis and cricket for a local team. He says that Philip Watts' cricket sessions were invaluable. The picture shows Tom Leeson, Will Punter, a friend, Kit Davidson and George Wallis.



George RENNIE (10-15) started his second year of a four-year Masters' Degree in Electronic Engineering at Southampton University in September 2021. He has a UK Electronic Skills Foundation Scholarship. He is an employee of Arm Cambridge, the

company behind the processor architecture in 90% of the world's smartphones, working for them each summer throughout his degree. He continues to enjoy music and playing his drum kit.



Rafa TENIENTE (06-15) is at Edinburgh University, studying Spanish and History. After leaving school he took a gap year with Oscar Tosh and Wilf Evans, and they went to Mexico, Guatemala and Costa Rica. The picture shows them over the Aztec pyramid of Teotihuacan.



Oscar TOSH (08-15) left Marlborough in July 2020, where he was Head of House (B1) and captained various school teams in rugby, cricket and football. He took a gap year and worked at an apple-press company to fund five months of travelling round Central America with Rafa Teniente, Wilf Evans and Henry Grant, a friend from Marlborough. They visited Costa Rica, Mexico and Guatemala. Oscar started at Durham University in September 2021, reading Economics and Politics. The photograph shows, from left to right, Rafa, Wilf, Oscar and Henry holding two seven-foot sailfish which they had caught.



George WALLIS (09-15) was one of the lucky few who managed to get out to Verbier at the end of November 2020 to do a BASI Level 1 & 2 ski instructor's course with William Punter. He qualified in early February 2021 and stayed in Verbier until the end of March, when his 90 Brexit days were up. After coming home for a couple of weeks, he travelled to Costa Rica to join a Leap Volunteer Programme, where he helped look after endangered animals at a wildlife sanctuary. He then ventured up to Mexico to catch up with some of the friends he had met whilst skiing. He started at Exeter University in September, studying History and French.

Isla WATT (07-15) is at Edinburgh University, studying Art, having started there in 2020. Although she didn't have a gap year, thanks mostly to Covid, it was always her intention to go straight to university after school. During the Summer Term she was a matron at Ludgrove School.

Aniella WEINBERGER (09-15) is at Edinburgh University.

Harry WILLIAMS (07-15) spent the first three months of his gap year revising for his IB exams, in order to achieve the grades he wanted after the algorithm debacle at the end of his official school career. During the long third lockdown, he started making wire tree sculptures, which he sold on Instagram to fund his travels to Costa Rica. On returning, he cycled from John o' Groats to Land's End with three of his Wellington friends, which included fundraising success (for the charity, Oddballs) and lots of adventures. He went to study Physics at Manchester University in September 2021.

Alana WILSON (09-15) has worked and travelled throughout her gap year, despite Covid. Her work included time at the Covid Testing Centre in Basingstoke. Her travels included Venice, Tuscany, Ibiza, France, Verbier (for five weeks), Costa Rica (for four weeks) and, towards the end of her gap year, Ibiza and France again. In September she went to Newcastle University to study Business.

Phoebe WILSON (05-15) left St Edward's, Oxford, in 2020 and went straight to WaterBear, a music college in Brighton, where she is now in her second year studying for a BA Career Musician degree.

Charles WOLRIGE GORDON (08-15) left Eton in 2020 and went up to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, to read Veterinary Medicine. Although he had no gap year, he has had several work placements related to his course, including lambing in the north of Scotland and stints on an organic dairy farm in the North Midlands and at Park House Stables in Kingsclere. He has so far avoided working with pigs, the mainstay of his grandparents' and great-grandparents' farms, but he had, at the time of writing, just returned from the Reading Festival. His first year at Cambridge was bookended by the double cancellation of his matriculation dinner on the first and last evenings of the formal academic year, the former as a Covid precaution and the latter because he and many of his college contemporaries had actually succumbed to Covid. He celebrated his release from quarantine and the end of his year as a freshman in the University Arms Hotel by liberally sprinkling the Bursar of Christ's, his father's former boss, with a good red Burgundy!

THE YEAR 8 LEAVERS 2021

The following scholarships were gained at public schools:

Camille Aird
Downe House
Art Exhibition

Toby Balding
Bradfield College
All-Rounder Scholarship

Hector Boyle
Wellington College
Academic Scholarship

Ava Broke-Smith
Bradfield College
Sport Scholarship

Douglas du Plessis
Radley College
Sport Scholarship

Mia Flower
Wellington College
Academic Exhibition

Hugo Holmes
Marlborough College
Sport Scholarship

James Kehoe
Sherborne School
Sport Exhibition

Laila Moledina
Millfield School
Sport Scholarship

Chloe Parke
Bradfield College
Art Scholarship

Oliver Tayabali
Marlborough College
Design & Technology
Scholarship

Annabel Trew
Downe House
Academic Scholarship

Oliver Webster
Charterhouse School
Sport Scholarship

Charlotte Wheeler
Downe House
Academic Exhibition

Oliver Wilson
Eton College
Music Exhibition

In addition, the following Year 8 children left Cheam for their future schools:

Henry Bassett Cross	Radley
Billy Bays	Radley
Ava Bengough	Bradfield
Lucian Brandler	St Edward's, Oxford
Catharine Bronks	Marlborough
Harry Butler	Bryanston
William Chipchase	Eton
Tamsin Clegg	Downe House
Rollo Collett	Sherborne
Sam Colquhoun	Eton
Hugh Downie	Radley
Lucy Edwards	St Gabriel's, Newbury
Hanna Exley	Canford
Milo Fairman	Sherborne
Isla Firth	Bradfield
William Hall	Marlborough
William Harris	Bradfield
Francesca Haskell	Bradfield
Jasmine Hayles	Bradfield
Pippa Herrmann	Wellington
Sam Hudson	Pangbourne
Annabel Hyatt	Marlborough
Jemima Idiens	Marlborough
Ned Jones	Sherborne
Harry Klosterfelde	Charterhouse
Arabella Knight	Bradfield
Anna Low	Wellington
Flora Low	Marlborough
Rafe Marriott	Eton
Theo McNally	Marlborough
George Milbank	Pangbourne
George Monot	Bradfield
Beatrice Moore	Bradfield
George Murray	Bradfield
Matilda Nesbitt	Bradfield
Lenny O'Neill	St Edward's, Oxford
Skye Pleydell-Bouverie	Marlborough
Rory Prest	Bradfield
Arthur Risso-Gill	Sherborne
Rose Sanderson	Canford
Henry Shannon	Bryanston
Jago Smiley	Eton
Matilda Spark	Bradfield
Thomas Stanes	Wellington
Olivia Stewart	Downe House
Raya Trusted	Marlborough
William Winton	Winchester
Felix Zamoyski-Freitag	Wellington

THE CHEAM FOUNDATION

Funding bursaries for brighter futures

Thanks to the support of alumni, parents and friends of the school, The Cheam Foundation has continued to raise funds for Life-changing Bursaries. It has been a great shame not to have been able to hold any fundraising events over the last year, but we have continued to benefit from the engagement of many old Cheam pupils. The generosity of past Cheam families and alumni underpins most aspects of life here at Cheam, from the Sports Hall to The Duke of Edinburgh Building, and fortunately the Foundation's Life-changing Bursary Fund is being equally well supported.

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of the Cheam community, the Foundation is now fully-funding two children in the Prep School, and we are delighted to see the positive impact that these bursaries are having on their recipients. At Cheam we passionately believe in the power of education, but it isn't always easy to reach those eligible and talented children who would benefit most. To help us, The Cheam Foundation has been working with The Royal National

Children's SpringBoard Foundation, a charitable organisation that works in local communities to find suitable candidates. The fact that on average 82% of pupils that come through SpringBoard secure a place at university, compared to only 26% of disadvantaged low-income school leavers nationally, says it all.

Through fundraising, we want to offer the outstanding opportunities available at Cheam to a wider group of children. With your support, we can offer more places to talented boys and girls. We typically offer Life-changing Bursaries to children in Year 6 or Year 7, and then, with the help of our senior school partners, they go on to secure an award to a senior school, ensuring continuity of education.

If you would be interested in sponsoring a talented child through Cheam, or making a donation of any size, please do get in touch with Victoria Edgington in the Foundation Office: foundation@cheamschool.co.uk

Victoria Edgington (18-)

The Cheam Foundation works alongside the CSA as the day-to-day hub for communication with past pupils, so please keep in touch with us and consider joining the increasing ranks of alumni/alumnae who visit their old school. You can also follow us on Instagram @cheamschoolalumni

We would appreciate it if you could let us know of any changes of address, name or title so that we can keep our records up to date. We would also welcome any news that you might like us to put in the Newsletter. Such information should be sent to the editor, Michael Churchill (csa@cheamschool.co.uk).

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